

What is claimed is:

1. A device to provide fingerprint access to a vehicle having electrically or electronically activated access control system comprising:
  - a housing including an electronic fingerprint sensor;
  - a means for connecting the device to a power source;
  - a chip for storing information identifying an electronic fingerprint;
  - means to activate at least one device whereby activation of said device allows access control.
2. A device according to claim 1 further providing means to deactivate at least one device whereby deactivation of said device denies access.
3. A device according to claim 1 wherein said electronic fingerprint is an electronic image of a human fingerprint.
4. A device according to claim 1 wherein said electronic fingerprint is an electronic code which is unique to an individual.
5. A device according to claim 1 wherein said means for activating at least one device includes at least one circuit board and at least one switching device.
6. A device according to claim 5 wherein said switching device is a relay.
7. A device according to claim 1 wherein said housing is mounted on the external surface of a vehicle.
8. A device according to claim 1 wherein said housing is mounted on the internal surface of a vehicle, said surface being transparent to said sensor.
9. A device according to claim 1 wherein more than one sensor is used on or at an external or internal surface of a vehicle.

10. A device according to claim 1 wherein access control is selected from the group consisting of door locks, trunk locks, alarms, ignition systems, fuel pumps and starter motors.
11. A device according to claim 1 wherein stored information is obtained using both an electronic fingerprint sensor and an external device.
12. A device according to claim 11 wherein said external device is a PC or a PDA.
13. A device according to claim 12 which is password protected.
14. A device for preventing the theft of a motorized vehicle separately from any keyed or acoustical entry system comprising:
  - an external housing for an electronic fingerprint sensor having means to verify enrollment;
  - means for connecting the device to a power source;
  - means to activate at least one of the group consisting of door locks, ignition systems, fuel pumps and starter motors;
  - whereby said vehicle cannot be accessed unless an enrolled fingerprint is read by said fingerprint sensor.
15. A device according to claim 14 wherein said electronic fingerprint is an electronic pattern characteristic of an individual.
16. A device according to claim 15 wherein said electronic pattern is stored on a chip.
17. A device according to claim 14 further comprising a rechargeable backup battery of sufficient capacity to enable a vehicle to start when the main battery has been discharged.
18. A device according to claim 14 further comprising a smart card reader mounted on or in the vehicle to provide means for quick download of fingerprint images.